

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

The below listing of claims replaces all prior version and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a bath sponge, the method comprising:

manipulating each of a plurality of discrete lengths of flexible mesh-netting tube so that each mesh-netting tube is formed into a band, the act of manipulating comprising at least partially rolling each mesh-netting tube so that each tube has a substantially doughnut shaped configuration, each band bounding a central opening;

adjacently positioning each of the bands so that at least a portion of the central opening of each band is aligned along a longitudinal axis; and

securing each of the aligned bands together at two spaced apart locations so as to produce a substantially spherical sponge.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising folding each mesh-netting tube over itself at least once prior to rolling.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the act of adjacently positioning each of the bands comprises stretching each band over a support structure.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the act of adjacently positioning each of the bands comprises stretching each band over a pair of spaced apart posts.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the act of securing comprises using separate cords to tie the bands together at the two spaced apart locations.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, further comprising positioning a fastening device on at least one of the cords so as to keep the cord in place.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising positioning an object within a central pocket formed within the spherical sponge.

9. (Original) A method for manufacturing a bath sponge, the method comprising:  
at least partially rolling each of a plurality of discrete lengths of flexible mesh-netting tube so that each mesh-netting tube is formed into a discrete substantially doughnut shaped band, each band bounding a central opening;  
stretching each band on a support structure so that the central opening of each band is at least partially aligned;  
securing each of the bands together at a first location;  
securing each of the bands together at a second location substantially opposite the first location; and  
releasing the stretched bands from the support structure so as to produce a substantially spherical bath sponge.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, further comprising folding at least one of the mesh-netting tubes over itself at least once prior to rolling.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the act of stretching each band on a support structure comprises stretching each band over a pair of spaced apart posts.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the act of securing each of the bands together at a first location comprises tying a line around each of the bands at the first location.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the act of securing each of the bands together at a first location comprises:
  - passing a cord around each of the bands at the first location; and
  - mounting a fastening device on the cord so as to hold the cord in position.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 9, further comprising positioning an object within a central pocket formed within the spherical sponge.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the object is soap, a toy, or a stuffed animal.

16. (Previously Presented) A bath sponge comprising a plurality of bands each having a substantially doughnut shaped configuration, each band bounding a central opening and being comprised of a flexible mesh-netting material, each band being secured together at a first location and a spaced apart second location so that the bands form a substantially spherical configuration with the central opening of each band forming a portion of a central pocket.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A bath sponge as recited in claim 16, wherein each band comprises an elongated mesh-netting tube that has been manipulated into a band.

19. (Original) A bath sponge as recited in claim 16, further comprising an object disposed within the central pocket.

20. (Original) A bath sponge as recited in claim 16, wherein the plurality of bands comprises four or more discrete bands.

21.-23. (Cancelled)